

IV. REMARKS

The above-identified patent application is the United States National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US2003/040880, filed December 22, 2003 which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of United States Provisional Application No. 60/435,601, filed December 20, 2002. In the international application, the United States was designated as the International Search Authority and as the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

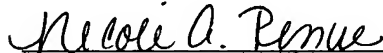
The Assignee has amended the claims section in this application to cancel multiple dependencies from the claims and to cancel some of the claims in order to limit the examination effort in this initial application. Accordingly, claims 1-47, 75 and 90-95 remain in the case. In addition, a priority claim has been added as the first sentence of the specification. All amendments of claims are to be done without prejudice and are not to be construed as a waiver of any right to file other applications such as continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part, or similar applications and have the remaining claims examined without any reduction in breadth.

V. CONCLUSION:

Claims 48-74 and 76-89 have been canceled and claims 11, 17, 19, 30, 31 and 90-95 have been amended. Assignee requests that claims 1-47, 75 and 90-95 be examined as a single group and allowed at the examiner's earliest convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,
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